

Alexandria Gazette Packet

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 6, 2026

Oh What a Night! Residents celebrate National Night Out across the city.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Neighborhoods across Alexandria came together Aug. 4 for National Night Out, an annual community-building event designed to strengthen relationships between residents and public safety agencies. This year's celebration marked a record level of participation, with 54 registered events taking place throughout the city.

From Old Town and Del Ray to the West End, residents gathered at block parties, cookouts, ice cream socials, and community meetups aimed at fostering stronger neighborhood connections and promoting public safety.

"We are seeking innovative ways to build relationships, to talk to people in non-stressful environments and build camaraderie and friendship."

— Police Chief
Tarrick McGuire

awareness. National Night Out is a nationwide campaign that encourages community engagement and partnership with local law enforcement and emergency services.

"National Night Out is a great opportunity for the community to interact with agencies in a positive way," said Sheriff Sean Casey. "That's how you build relationships, that's how you earn trust in the community and that is very important to the sheriff, police and fire departments."

Officers from the Alexandria Police Department visited participating locations throughout the evening, accompanied by members of the department's K-9 Unit,



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Sheriff Sean Casey plays paddle smash with local residents Aug. 4 in Cameron Station as part of National Night Out.



Fire Chief Felipe Hernandez, third from left, is joined by former Mayor Bill Euille, Lt. Rick Muse, inspector James Proctor and local residents during National Night Out Aug. 4 in Del Ray.

Motorcycle Unit, Bike Patrol, command staff and patrol teams. Representatives from the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, Alexandria Fire Department, Department of Emergency and Customer Communications and other city agencies also participated in community events citywide.

City officials said the record turnout reflects Alexandria's continued commitment to neighborhood engagement and public safety partnerships. Alexandria was recognized in 2025 as one of the top 15 National Night Out commu-

SEE RESIDENTS CELEBRATE, PAGE 6



A young girl checks out one of Alexandria's fire trucks in Pat Miller Neighborhood Square Aug. 4 during National Night Out.



President Aaron Kahn with members of the Alexandria Radio Club in Pat Miller Neighborhood Square during National Night Out Aug. 4.

‘The Forgotten War’

Korean War Armistice.

PHOTOS COURTESY VFW Post 609

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Veterans, military families, Scouting troops and community members gathered July 27 at Alexandria National Cemetery to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and honor those who served during the conflict. The observance marked the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, which brought an end to active hostilities on the Korean Peninsula.

The ceremony, hosted by VFW Post 609, provided an opportunity to remember the sacrifices of American and allied service members who fought in what is often called the “Forgotten War.” Participants paid tribute to veterans through remarks, moments of reflection and commemorative activities that emphasized the enduring importance of service, sacrifice and the pursuit of peace.

VFW Post 609’s Comrade Monika Stoy (Captain, USA ret.) and Timothy Stoy (LTC, USA, ret.), two noted Army Historians, led attendees in a ceremony remembering the signing of the Korean War armistice on July 27, 1953.

“It is not over between North and South Korea,” said Monika Stoy, whose mother was one of the 5.8 million refugees who fled from North Korea to the South. “Hundreds have died since the signing of the armistice. We remember the millions of Koreans both North and South who suffered horrors of the war and remain hopeful that someday Korea will once again be one country and that such a reunification will be achieved peacefully.”

The event also highlighted the lasting alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea, a partnership forged during the war and strengthened over the decades since the armistice. Speakers reflected on the courage of those who served and the responsibility of future generations to preserve the memory of their contributions.

The Armistice was an agreement that ended active combat in the Korean War, though it did not officially end the war.

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korea, backed by the Soviet Union and China, invaded South Korea supported by the United Nations, primarily the U.S.

After three years of intense fighting, neither had achieved a decisive victory. The Armistice halted all open hostilities between North and South Korea. It established the Demilitarized Zone along the 38th



Attendees and participants gather for the July 27th Korean War Armistice Commemorative Ceremony.



Members of Veteran Service Organizations pose for a photo after being presented with the Korean government’s Medal of Appreciation during the commemoration of the Korean War Armistice on July 27 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



VFW Post 609 Commander Jerry Krueger, back left, poses with local Scouts following the commemoration of the Korean War Armistice July 27 at Alexandria National Cemetery.

parallel, roughly where the front lines were at the time. A military demarcation line runs through the center of the DMZ and marks the actual boundary between the two countries.

The armistice was signed by the United Nations Command, led by the United States, the North Korean People’s Army, and the Chinese People’s Volunteer Army. South Korea did not sign the armistice. Then-president Syngman Rhee opposed it, wanting to continue the war to unify Korea under the South.

Short addresses were delivered by several embassy military attaches representing countries that provided military forces to support the NATO alliance during and after the Korean War.

VFW members and local Girl Scouts participated in a POW-MIA ceremony with a Veterans Remembrance Wreath presentation at the Cemetery Flagpole. American Legion

Post 24 member Donna Reuss performed a stirring rendition of God Bless America at the ceremony.

“Representatives of eight local area Veteran Services Organizations attended the event,” said VFW Post 609 Commander Jerry Krueger. “Medals of appreciation were issued by Monika and Timothy Stoy to the VSO representatives whose members served in Korea.”

VFW Post 609 capped off the “Forgotten War” week Aug. 1 by participating with members of other VSOs in assisting the National Park Service Rangers in cleaning the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Post 609 comrade Tejas Patel led more than 40 volunteers from eight different VSOs in scrubbing the memorial. Park Ranger James Pierce, a member of Arlington VFW Post 3150, facilitated the local efforts.



American Legion Post 24 Commander Kelly Niernberger, left, stands as Post 24 member Donna Reuss sings God Bless America.

OBITUARY

Brigadier General Harold 'Buck' Adams



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Capt. Harold B. (Buck) Adams, Pilot, left, with Maj. Williams C. Machorek, Reconnaissance Systems Operator, following their historic SR-71 Blackbird flight on Sept. 13, 1974.



PHOTO/AMERICAN LEGION POST 24

Maj. General Harold "Buck" Adams, right, with NASA Astronaut Benjamin Alvin Drew Jr. at an event at American Legion Post 24 in Old Town.

Legendary aviator, Old Town resident dies at 83.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Retired Air Force Brigadier General Harold Benny "Buck" Adams, a legendary aviator and beloved Old Town resident, died June 23 at the age of 83.

A proud patriot and devoted family man, Adams lived a life defined by high-altitude courage, historic aviation milestones and distinguished service to his country.

Born Jan. 20, 1943, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Adams grew up in Brewster, Washington, graduating from Bridgeport High School in 1961. He went on to earn a fine arts degree from Washington State University in 1966, where he was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program.

Adams logged 137 combat missions over Southeast Asia flying B-52 bombers during the Vietnam War, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters. His exceptional skills quickly led him into elite reconnaissance. At just 28 years old, he became the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Legendary aviator Harold "Buck" Adams died June 23 at the age of 83.

youngest airman ever selected to fly the legendary SR-71 Blackbird, the world's fastest and highest-flying operational manned aircraft. He accumulated nearly 400 flight hours as an SR-71 aircraft commander with the 1st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron at Beale Air Force Base.

On Sept. 13, 1974, Adams carved his name into aviation history. Alongside Reconnaissance Systems Officer Major William C. Machorek, he piloted a record-breaking transcontinental sprint from London to Los Angeles.

Crossing seven time zones, Adams flew the SR-71 Blackbird from London to Los Angeles in a race with the sun. The 3-hour, 47 minute and 39 second flight established an initial speed record over the 5,447 statute mile route.

An added aerial refueling over the longer distance produced a slower ground speed of 1,435 mph. The aircraft arrived (by California time) almost four hours before its London-time departure.

For the record-setting flight, Adams received the De La Vaulx medal given by Federation Aeronautique Internationale. The medal is awarded to individuals for establishing absolute world records for highest performance without regard to size of aircraft or power plant.

Over his decades of service, Adams' leadership advanced through the ranks to Brigadier General, earning the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster. He commanded strategic reconnaissance squadrons, served as an Air Operations Staff Officer at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, and ultimately retired in 1992 as the Director of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Planning Staff.

To those who knew him on the ground, Adams was simply "Buck," a man of immense humility, quick wit, and deep integrity. He spoke regularly to underserved youth groups as well as giving aviation presentations to military organizations. Along with Vietnam POW and Living Legend Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, Adams was a

featured guest just days before his death at an event for veterans and Scouts at American Legion Post 24 in Old Town.

Beyond his remarkable military career, Adams was a devoted family man who found great joy in the people and community around him. In Old Town, he was a familiar and generous presence-always ready with a helping hand, a kind word or practical support for a friend in need. He loved his community deeply and brought warmth, humor and dependability to the lives of those fortunate enough to know him.

Adams is survived by his wife of 60 years, Belle; his daughter, Betina, and his son-in-law; his granddaughter; his sister; his two brothers; and his beloved Yorkie, Clementine. He was preceded in

death by his parents, as well as a brother and sister.

A celebration of life will be held at the historic Lee Fendall House and Museum on Sunday, Aug. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (614 Oronoco St, Alexandria, VA 22314).

Adams will be laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Once finalized details regarding the interment schedule will be announced separately on the Demaine Funeral Home website.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Adams' memory to support either veterans or research into cognitive care. Contributions can be directed to the Air Force Aid Society to support fellow airmen and veterans, or to the Alzheimer's Association to fund critical research and family support services.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event. Or email to calendar@connectionnewspapers.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck

to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/ALIVE>

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for commu-

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LIVING LEGENDS

Living Legends of Alexandria

Robyn Nichols: A legendary trailblazer of service.

BY AMY BERTSCH

With nearly 40 years of service to the City of Alexandria, Undersheriff Robyn Nichols built a life defined by integrity, leadership and compassion. Whether in uniform as a law enforcement officer or off duty as an active community member, Nichols dedicated herself to helping and protecting others. Her groundbreaking achievements — many of them firsts for women in Alexandria law enforcement — have inspired countless officers, both women and men, to follow her example. Though she humbly insists she has “just done her job,” Nichols’s lifelong commitment to the City stands as a model of public service and perseverance.

A lifelong Virginian, Nichols was raised in Newport News, where she grew up in a hardworking family that valued resilience and responsibility. After her parents divorced, her mother often held two jobs to support the family, and young Robyn stepped in to help care for her younger siblings. That early sense of duty shaped her future in law enforcement. A standout athlete in high school, she also worked as a lifeguard and swim coach — early indications of the discipline, leadership and calm under pressure that would later define her career.

Nichols attended Radford University, where she majored in criminal justice and psychology, becoming the first member of her family to graduate from college. With a clear calling toward public safety, she moved to Northern Virginia in 1986 and began her career with the Alexandria Police Department that fall as a records clerk. The following year, she achieved her goal of becoming a police officer.

Early in her career, Nichols distinguished herself for her courage and compassion. During a high-rise fire, she carried several people with disabilities down multiple flights of stairs to safety, earning the Silver Medal Valor Award for her heroism. After serving in patrol, she joined the Street Crimes Unit, a specialized team targeting street-level narcotics activity during the height of the crack cocaine epidemic. It was demanding, often dangerous work, but Nichols approached it with empathy as well as resolve. She built genuine connections with residents in the most affected neighborhoods — relationships that have endured decades later. Some of those she once arrested later sought her out to share



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA STUDIOS

Robyn Nichols is a 2025 Living Legend of Alexandria.

that they had overcome addiction and turned their lives around, crediting her fairness and encouragement.

In 1994, Nichols was promoted to sergeant, continuing to expand her leadership role. She soon became a liaison to the Lynhaven neighborhood where her steady presence proved invaluable, she recruited women to join the department, and she joined the Hostage Negotiations Team. By 1999, she had advanced to the Criminal Investigations Section and soon became the first woman to oversee homicide and other violent crime investigations in Alexandria. It was one of the most challenging assignments of her career, requiring sensitivity, endurance and an unwavering commitment to justice. Nichols worked closely with survivors, victims’ families and witnesses — earning their trust and offering compassion in moments of deep trauma. Even years after her retirement from the Police Department, some of those she helped continued to reach out, grateful for the care and respect she showed them.

Nichols’s dedication extended to her colleagues as well. As a supervisor in both the Criminal Investigations and Vice-Narcotics Sections, she advocated for her detectives and encouraged promising new officers to devel-

op their investigative skills. Her outstanding leadership earned her the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal from the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Respect for Law Award from the Optimist Club.

Throughout her career, Nichols was also known for her compassion in times of tragedy. When fellow officers suffered devastating injuries — such as Kris Gulden, who was left partially paralyzed after being struck by a car while off-duty, and Peter Laboy, who survived a traumatic brain injury after being shot in the line of duty — Nichols organized support efforts, assisted families and helped raise funds. She also accompanied the family of her late colleague, Sergeant Morty Ford, to Police Week in Washington, D.C., after his death in 2011 was declared a line-of-duty loss, ensuring his service was properly honored. Her leadership extended beyond her on-duty assignments: she became the first woman vice president of the Alexandria Police Association, helping to modernize its facilities and strengthen its mission of supporting police employees.

After retiring from the Police Department in 2014, Nichols brought her extensive experience to the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office as a

captain under Sheriff Dana Lawhorne. Drawing on her strong community ties, she worked to enhance the office’s visibility and connection with residents, regularly participating in outreach and engagement events and continuing as a liaison to Lynhaven. Nichols led the implementation of the office’s first digital policy and accreditation platform, modernizing operations and improving accountability. Her colleagues recognized her leadership by voting her Outstanding Sworn Supervisor in 2017.

Promoted to chief deputy in 2019, Nichols played a vital role when the COVID-19 pandemic struck the following year. She coordinated testing and monitoring for inmates and staff, working closely with the Alexandria Health Department to maintain safety in the detention center during an unprecedented public health crisis. In 2022, following Sheriff Sean Casey’s election, Nichols was appointed undersheriff, becoming the first woman in Alexandria history to hold that title. Under her direction, the Sheriff’s Office achieved its first-ever Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) certification in 2024, following a rigorous independent audit—a milestone in the office’s commitment to safety and human dignity.

Before she retired in early 2026, Undersheriff Robyn Nichols was the longest-serving active law enforcement officer in Alexandria and the longest-serving sworn female in the city’s public

safety history. In a profession long dominated by men, she often led teams composed entirely — or predominantly — of male officers, and she took pride in seeing how the profession has evolved. The Alexandria Sheriff’s Office now counts women as roughly one-third of its sworn ranks, progress built on the foundations that trailblazers like Nichols helped to create.

Over four decades of service, Nichols has mentored dozens of officers, detectives and deputies, many of whom credit her with shaping their careers and leadership styles. Her influence also extends far beyond law enforcement: survivors of violent crimes and former offenders alike continue to reach out to her, expressing gratitude for her compassion and fairness. Her life’s work reflects a profound belief in the power of empathy, accountability, and second chances.

Through every role she has held — officer, investigator, mentor, leader and finally undersheriff — Robyn Nichols has embodied the ideals of duty and service. Her record of dedication, courage and compassion has made Alexandria not only safer, but stronger. Whether or not she views herself as a “Living Legend,” her legacy as one is already secure.

More Than Beauty

As August marks National Black Business Month, Alexandria entrepreneur Montie Green reflects on 10 years of building a salon where skin care, education and community go hand in hand.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

The front door of VELVET Wax & Beauty opens with the soft chime of a bell, but the first thing customers notice isn't the sound.

It's the calm. The scent of citrus cleanser mingles with warm wax. Shelves lined with neatly arranged skin-care products catch the afternoon light. Somewhere behind a closed treatment-room door, laughter drifts into the reception area.

Montie Green believes beauty

“Supporting Black businesses shouldn't happen only in August.”

— Montie Green, VELVET Wax & Beauty

should never feel rushed.

She greets clients by name, asks about their families and vacations before discussing skin concerns. Every appointment begins with a conversation, not a treatment.

“I want people to feel cared for before anything else happens,” she says.

That philosophy didn't begin in a business plan.

It began in her mother's salon.

Long before Green opened VELVET Wax & Beauty in Alexandria a decade ago, she watched women settle into salon chairs carrying far more than hair appointments.

They came with celebrations, disappointments, job interviews, weddings and grief. Her mother, a cosmetologist and salon owner, listened as carefully as she styled.

“My mother showed me that beauty spaces can be places of trust, confidence and community,” Green said.

Her father, a Navy veteran and entrepreneur, taught a different lesson. Discipline.

“If you say you're going to do something,” he would tell her, “you show up.”

Those two examples — one rooted in compassion, the other in perseverance — still shape nearly every decision Green makes.

Today, as VELVET celebrates its tenth anniversary during Black Business Month, she sees the salon as part skin-care studio, part classroom and part community gathering place.

Clients arrive seeking waxing or sugaring services. Many leave with something less tangible. Confidence.

“I've always wanted to solve a real problem,” Green said. “I know there are people who haven't always felt understood in traditional beauty spaces, especially women with diverse skin tones or skin conditions. I wanted to create a place where people felt seen.”

That mission has carried Green through challenges she never anticipated.

Over the past decade she has navigated staffing shortages, a pandemic, a flood, relocations, rising operating costs and equipment failures.

Each obstacle threatened the business. None defined it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTIE GREEN

Montie Green, owner of VELVET Wax & Beauty in Alexandria, stands inside the salon she founded 10 years ago. During National Black Business Month, Green reflects on building a business centered on skin care, education and community.

“You prepare for one version of entrepreneurship and then life gives you another,” Green said.

Instead of retreating, she expanded.

Today Green not only serves clients but also trains other beauty professionals in waxing, sugaring, client care and entrepreneurship, hoping to help others avoid mistakes she learned through experience.

“My parents taught me service,” she said. “Now I feel responsible for passing that knowledge on.”

For Green, Black Business Month is about more than recognition. It is about continuation.

“Supporting Black businesses shouldn't happen only in August,” she said. “But this month reminds us that we're part of something much larger — a legacy of people creating opportunities where they didn't exist before.”

Before another client arrives, Green straightens a display near the front counter and smiles as the door opens again.

Ten years after opening VELVET, she still sees each appointment the way her mother once did.

Not as a transaction. As an opportunity to care for someone.

August is National Black Business Month, an annual observance that celebrates the achievements and economic contributions of Black entrepreneurs while encouraging consumers to support Black-owned businesses throughout the year.

The observance also highlights the opportunities and challenges facing Black business owners, including access to capital, mentorship and visibility.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

nity members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org. Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-vol-

unteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsFAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19

school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/

volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers

enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org. Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help trans-

BULLETIN, PAGE 7



Police Chief Tarrick McGuire leads the Dog Walker Watch Aug. 4 in Del Ray during National Night Out.



Sheriff Sean Casey poses for a photo with Cameron Station residents Aug. 4 for National Night Out.

Residents Celebrate National Night Out Across the City

FROM PAGE 1

nities in the United States among communities of similar size, a distinction city leaders say highlights the success of local collaboration efforts.

“We continue to expand our community engagement in Alexandria,” said Police Chief Tarrick McGuire. “Diversity is not only about race, but also about culture and each community has a culture. We are seeking innovative ways to build relationships, to talk to people in non-stressful environments and build camaraderie and friendship.”

A new feature of this year’s celebration was a community dog walk in Del Ray led by Chief McGuire and Alexandria Police officers. The event highlighted the department’s Dog Walker Watch program, which encourages residents to serve as extra eyes and ears in their neighborhoods while walking their pets.

Members of the Alexandria Radio Club were on hand with equipment used for emergency communications.

“We are a group of amateur radio members and among many things we serve as a communications team during city parades,” said club president Aaron Kahn. “We work in conjunction with the Alexandria emergency center as backup communications for the greater Washington area.”

Organizers say National Night Out is about more than a single evening of festivities. The event is intended to build trust between residents and first responders, create stronger neighborhood networks, and encourage a shared re-



A costumed mascot greets the crowd Aug. 4 during National Night Out in Del Ray.

sponsibility for community safety.

As families enjoyed food, games, music, and conversations with neighbors and public safety personnel, the evening reinforced Alexandria’s theme for the event: “One Community. One Night. One

Alexandria.”

“This has been a great opportunity to get out and meet the community,” said Fire Chief Filipe Hernandez. “We enjoy great conversations and are here to show residents that we are here for them.”



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Residents of The View senior living enjoy National Night Out festivities.



Police Chief Tarrick McGuire with community residents Aug. 4 in Del Ray during National Night Out.

OBITUARY

Julie Ravenel Boothe Perry, 89

Julie Ravenel Boothe Perry, 89, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, and long-time resident of East Boothbay, passed away peacefully on Aug. 1, 2026 surrounded by family in Newcastle, Maine.

Julie was a strong, independent woman with a thirst for knowledge and a deep love of nature. She approached the world with an open mind and heart.

During her years at Sweet Briar College, she travelled to Mexico to help families in underprivileged communities, an experience that instilled in her a commitment to service.

A passion for politics led her to campaign at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago and to support the work of progressive leaders her entire life.

She was a journalist and author who devoted countless hours to her community including Alexandria's Bicentennial Commission and Third Century Scholarship Fund as well as Boothbay's Harbor Theater.



Julie Ravenel Boothe Perry.

Julie's love of the Maine coast began as a child. After moving here in the early 1990s, this love blossomed while living along the Damariscotta River, gardening and during long walks in the woods. It was also expressed in her art where she incorporated astrology and dreamwork into quilting, silk screening, sculpture and hand-crafted furniture.

Strongly influenced by fellowship, and shaped by her yoga prac-

tice, Julie came to know that life was a journey of personal and spiritual growth, and leaving the world a better person than when she entered it was important. This was most apparent as she sponsored many young women to transform their lives through recovery.

Above all else, she cherished her family. She is survived by her devoted husband Charlie, their three children Amy, Katherine and Robin; four grandchildren Elizabeth, Boothe, Madeleine and Matilde; and five great grandchildren, Charlotte, Caroline, Ravenel, Armistead and Billie.

Julie's youthful spirit and radiant smile will be sorely missed, but her legacy endures in all those she touched, the family she nurtured, and the example she set through a life well lived in wonder, service and joy.

In lieu of flowers the family kindly ask donations be made in her memory to the Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust <https://www.coastalrivers.org/ways-to-give/donate/>

Alexandria Police Charge Driver in Fatal Pedestrian Crash

A driver has been indicted in connection with a fatal pedestrian crash that occurred earlier this year in Alexandria.

On April 20, 2026, at approximately 5:30 p.m., Alexandria Police officers responded to the intersection of North Saint Asaph Street and Montgomery Street for a report of a vehicle that had struck a pedestrian. The pedestrian was pronounced

deceased at the scene by Alexandria Fire Department medics.

The victim was identified as Norma Floyd-Sayles, 62, of Alexandria.

The Alexandria Police Department's Crash Reconstruction Team conducted an extensive investigation into the collision. Following the completion of the investigation, the case was presented to the Alexandria Commonwealth's

Attorney's Office.

On July 15, 2026, the Alexandria Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Tekaligne Shirko, 46, of Lorton, Virginia, with: Failure to Yield to a Pedestrian Causing Death; and Involuntary Manslaughter.

Shirko surrendered July 17 and is being processed through the Alexandria Adult Detention Center. A court date has not been set.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

form the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian

Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30

p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov. FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children's learning.

BULLETIN, PAGE 10

The RESIDENCE at COLVIN RUN
Assisted Living & Memory Care

Where Vibrant Living Meets Award-Winning Care

At The Residence at Colvin Run, we've earned back-to-back Silver Awards for our Call Bell Response times, making sure residents receive the support they need in **under 4 minutes** with a success rate greater than 90%.

We also received a 2026 U.S. News & World Report Best Memory Care recognition, reflecting the care and peace of mind our residents and their families enjoy every day.

Visit IntegraCare.com or call 703-223-5226 to learn more about our community!

Easing Your Transition from Hospital to Home.

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Stroke Recovery

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Alexandria
Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

AlexandriaHC.com • 571.257.1896
900 Virginia Ave, Alexandria, VA 22302

40 Under 40

Chamber ALX celebrates emerging leaders.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



The Chamber ALX president and CEO Joe Haggerty, fourth from left, with honoree Andy Siegel and Goodwin Living colleagues at the 40 Under 40 awards reception July 16 at American Physical Therapy Association.



40 under 40 honoree Andy Siegel, third from right, with Goodwin Living colleagues.



40 Under 40 honoree Luke Powell of ALX Community, center, with Leslie Powell and Charlotte Hall.



40 Under 40 honoree Rachel Mackey center right, with staff of Everly-Wheatley Funeral and Cremations.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The rising stars of Alexandria were celebrated at the annual 40 Under 40 Awards reception held July 16 at the American Physical Therapy Association. The event is one of the city's premier gatherings recognizing young professionals who are making a meaningful im-

"It's nice to be recognized for doing hard work."
— 40 Under 40 honoree
Emily Howell

pact in business, government, non-profit organizations, healthcare, education and the arts.

Hosted by the Chamber ALX, the annual program honors 40 individuals under the age of 40 for their professional achievements, community involvement and leadership potential.

"We have been honoring the 40 Under 40 for 11 years now," said the Chamber ALX president and CEO Joe Haggerty. "We want to honor our young leaders. But we also honor 40 over 40 now so we

get to recognize both ends of the professional career."

The reception brings together community leaders, business executives, elected officials and supporters to celebrate the accomplishments of the honorees while fostering new connections across Alexandria's professional community. The event featured a networking reception followed by an awards ceremony highlighting

the contributions of the selected leaders.

"It's a privilege to be part of an organization that is constantly looking to serve older adults in different ways," said honoree Andy Siegel of Goodwin Living. "And I am proud to be part of a cohort of colleagues who have also been recognized for similar awards."

SEE CHAMBER ALX, PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Chamber ALX Celebrates Emerging Leaders

FROM PAGE 8

Since its launch in 2016, the 40 Under 40 program has become a respected platform for recognizing more than 400 individuals who are helping shape Alexandria's future through innovation, entrepreneurship, volunteerism and civic engagement. Honorees represent a wide range of industries and backgrounds, reflecting the diversity and strength of the city's workforce and community leadership.

Said honoree Emily Howell of Aptive Resources, "It's nice to be recognized for doing hard work."

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET



Rosemont Landscaping owner and honoree Sean Sutherland, second from left, with family members Jack Sutherland, Ed Sutherland, Casey Sutherland and Joy Sutherland.



40 Under 40 honoree Jennifer Patrick stands with Woodbine Rehabilitation and Health Care colleagues.



40 Under 40 honoree Emily Howell, vice president of Aptive Resources.



Honoree Carmen Lodato, director of Music Together Alexandria, with family members Roberta Giamittorio, Lucia Lodato, JJ Michael, Norman Lodato and Patty Lodato.



Sivad Rogers, vice president of Theta Rho Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Inc. was recognized as a 40 Under 40 honoree.

The Race Is On

Alexandria's Beyer and Warner emerge strong as primary results set stage for November.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia's primary elections have solidified the Commonwealth's congressional and Senate matchups for November, with two prominent Alexandria-area Democrats, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, emerging in strong positions as the general election campaign begins.

Beyer, who represents Virginia's 8th Congressional District, won the Democratic primary on Tuesday, defeating four challengers and securing the nomination for what could be his seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives. The district includes Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church and portions of Fairfax County.

The Associated Press called the race shortly after polls closed, reflecting Beyer's commanding lead across the district. According to unofficial results, he captured roughly

two-thirds of the vote districtwide, comfortably ahead of former Alexandria City Council member Mo Seifeldein and the other contenders.

For Alexandria residents, the outcome reinforces the city's continuing influence in Northern Virginia politics. Beyer, who lives in Alexandria and has represented the district since 2015, carried the city while emphasizing issues including housing affordability, climate policy, healthcare and oversight of artificial intelligence.

Meanwhile, Sen. Mark Warner avoided the turbulence of a contested primary, running unopposed for the Democratic nomination in Virginia's U.S. Senate race. Warner, seeking a fourth term, now advances to a November contest against Republican nominee Bert Mizusawa, a retired Army major general who won the GOP primary.

The results underscore Alexandria's prominence in Virginia politics. Beyer remains one of the region's most established con-



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, D-8, won the Aug. 4 Democratic primary for Virginia's 8th Congressional District. He will face Republican candidate Tony Sabio in the November general election.



U.S. Senator Mark Warner was unopposed in the statewide Democratic primary. He will face Bert Mizusawa, who won the Republican primary and will advance to the November general election.

gressional figures, while Warner continues as one of the state's best-known Democrats after more than a decade in the Senate. Their victories in the primary season leave both positioned as key players in Virginia's November elections.

With the primaries concluded, attention now turns to the general election, where

Beyer will face Republican Tony Sabio in the 8th District and Warner will square off against Mizusawa in a race that could help shape the balance of power in Washington. Sabio secured the Republican nomination unopposed after the GOP primary for District 8 was canceled.

Early voting opens on Friday, Sept. 18.

The Tea Party Patriot Buried in Alexandria

BY DAVID HEIBY
GAZETTE PACKET

One hundred eighty-six years ago this August, Alexandria laid to rest one of the last living links to the night that set America on the road to revolution.

Major Samuel Cooper, buried in Christ Church Cemetery within the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex, was just 16 years old on Dec. 16, 1773, when he joined the Sons of Liberty aboard three ships in Boston Harbor — the Dartmouth, Eleanor, and Beaver. Working by the light of the wharf lanterns, the disguised men heaved more than 340 chests of East India Company tea, some 92,000 pounds, into the water. The Boston Tea Party had begun the countdown to war.

Cooper is one of only four participants known to have written a firsthand account of that night. His recollection captures the strange discipline of the raid: about 20 men “disguised as Indians” filing silently through the Old South Meeting House, then down Milk Street to the wharves, where they “divided into three troops each with a leader,” boarded the ships quietly, and emptied the cargo before ten o’clock. “No noise was heard,” Cooper wrote, “except the

occasional clink of the hatchet in opening the boxes.”

He even recorded the night’s one act of rough justice: a man caught stuffing his cloak lining with about a bushel of tea was dragged to a barrel on the wharf and “soon furnished with a coat of tar and shavings.”

When Britain answered the Tea Party by placing Boston under military control, events spiraled toward the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775 — and Cooper, by some accounts, was among the volunteers who answered the alarm spread by Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Samuel Prescott. He went on to fight at Bunker Hill, Trenton, Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth, earning a commission as second lieutenant in Crane’s artillery regiment in 1777 and later serving as quartermaster and adjutant.

After the war, Cooper served as inspector of pot and pearl ashes for New York City and County until 1830, when he retired to Georgetown. He died on Aug. 19, 1840, at age 84, and was buried in Alexandria.

His gravestone honors a man “who in early youth, at the first onset, struck for Liberty and continued to wield the sword in the defence of his Country until Victory



The grave marker of Major Samuel Cooper, buried in Christ Church Cemetery within the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex. Cooper was 16 years old on Dec. 16, 1773, when he joined the Sons of Liberty aboard three ships in Boston Harbor.

crowned her arms.”

History added a remarkable postscript. Buried alongside the Revolutionary patriot is his son, Samuel Cooper (1798–1876), who became the highest-ranking officer in the Confederate Army — father and son on opposite arcs of the American story, resting side by side on Wilkes Street.

As Alexandria celebrates the 250th anniversary of American independence, Major Cooper’s

grave reminds us that the Revolution isn’t a distant story from Boston or Philadelphia. It’s buried beneath our feet — and this year, it’s ours to celebrate.

David Heiby is a public historian, Superintendent of the Presbyterian Cemetery in Alexandria, and creator of Gravestone Stories (gravestonestories.com), where he shares the history buried beneath our feet. He serves as Treasurer of the Alexandria Historical Society, on Alexandria’s America250 Committee, and as Treasurer of the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation, which owns the historic Lee-Fendall House in Alexandria — where he often portrays Emanuel Ethelbert “E.E.” Downham, one of Alexandria’s mayors of the 1890s and a colorful figure in the city from 1862 until his passing in 1921.

Civil Rights in Uncertain Times; in Remembrance of Benjamin Thomas

The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project invites the public to a conversation about Civil Rights in Uncertain Times with Deputy General Counsel for the NAACP, Myesha Braden. The evening in remembrance of Benjamin Thomas will also feature music by Charles E. Miller and remarks from Mayor Alyia Gaskins. The hour-long program begins at 7 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church (1401 Jamieson Ave), on Friday, Aug. 28, 2026. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Free.

The announcement reads: “We are again living through a time when civil and political liberties that were thought to be settled law are under assault. Masked armed men roam Minnesota streets and intimidate commuters in the District on the Fourth of July; the 14th and 15th Amendments are ignored; the Supreme Court has gutted the Voting Rights Act; and the White House has ordered a warning label for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of History. So, let’s talk about it.”

“Civil Rights in Uncertain Times” featuring Myesha Braden with music by Charles E. Miller. Deputy General Counsel Braden, a Tulane Law Graduate, has spent her entire career working on civil rights. She served in leadership positions at the Department of Justice, in the Obama White House, and in the nonprofit world.

In addition to the Remembrance program, the historic Shiloh Baptist Church at 1400 Duke Street, the site of Benjamin Thomas’s 1899 memorial and mass meeting, will be open for visitors from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Freedom House Museum at 1315 Duke Street that played a central role in the domestic slave trade, will be open until 6:30 p.m.

About Benjamin Thomas and the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project

On Tues. Aug. 8, 1899, Benjamin Thomas, a native Alexandrian who was just 16 years old was lynched in Alexandria at the corner of Fairfax and King Streets after being dragged a half mile from the jail

on Princess and St. Asaph Streets. Accused by his next-door neighbor’s seven-year-old daughter of assault, Benjamin was arrested on the child’s testimony alone. He never wavered in his assertion of his innocence. In the aftermath, both Black and white Alexandrians believed him. News of his murder, after local Black leadership warned authorities of a threat to lynch him, caused work stoppages around the region.

On Mon. Aug. 28, 1899, more than 600 people attended a mass meeting at Shiloh Baptist Church to memorialize Benjamin Thomas and to protest his lynching. At the packed event, leaders from churches in Alexandria and D.C. called for an economic boycott of any business associated with those who took part in the lynch mob.

The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) is a city-wide initiative dedicated to helping Alexandria understand our shared history in an effort to create a welcoming community and culture of belonging.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

- ❖ Support Group in English, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.
- ❖ Support Group in Spanish, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit www.novasecondsaturday.com for more.

ONGOING

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50

percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

Robust Walking. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Free 55+ robust walking 1-hour exercise class (with chair exercise option). No class on holidays. Contact jjkingconsulting@yahoo.com.

Seeking Donations. Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit www.computercore.org/contribute.

Be Heard at the City’s Monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meetings can be found at www.alexandriava.gov. Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city’s website. Anyone is welcome at any of the public hearings.

Region Has Serious Drought, Rainfall Deficit

Officials urge saving water.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

Virginia's Drought Monitoring Task Force updated the state's drought status on July 31: "The recent rain has prevented drought conditions from worsening, although severe drought continues in many parts of Virginia."

A drought warning advisory continues for Northern Virginia which includes Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

The Washington, D.C. region is on track to have its driest year in the last 20 years, officials say.

In its assessments, the Virginia task force uses four classifications, with the most severe being "emergency": normal, watch, warning and emergency. Officials factor in current and predicted precipitation, stream-flow, groundwater levels, reservoir levels, soil moisture, reported agriculture and water supply impacts and the current U.S. Drought Monitor map.

Rainfall Shortfall

The state's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on July 31 cautioned, "Longer-term precipitation continues to show severe and expansive deficits, with the 180-day Standardized Precipitation Index

"Longer-term precipitation continues to show severe and expansive deficits."

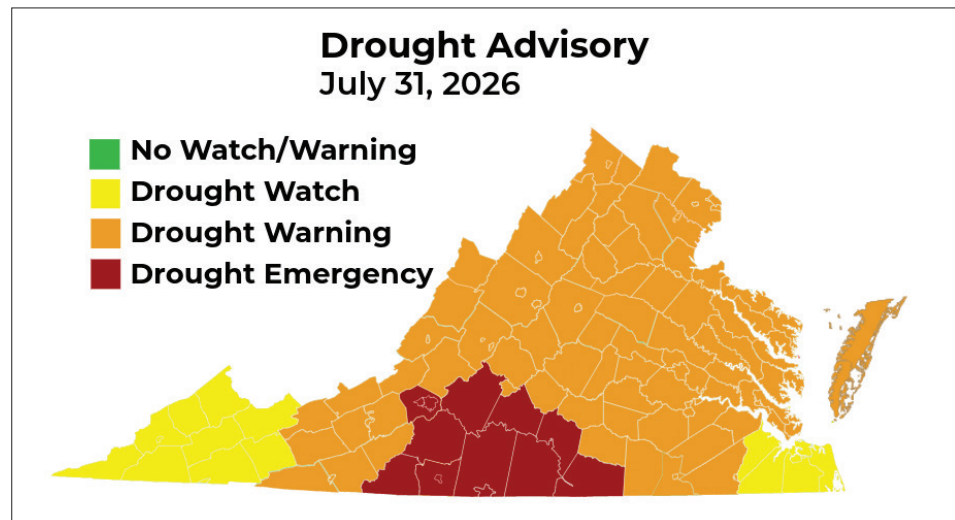
— Virginia DEQ

blend observation showing large areas of severe and extreme dryness throughout central and southcentral Virginia. Except for the Richmond area where normal year-to-date precipitation amounts are present, the rest of the Commonwealth is experiencing deficits ranging from 5.3 inches in Norfolk to 9.4 inches in Danville."

Weedon Cloe, DEQ Office of Water Supply manager, said, "The Northern Virginia drought evaluation region has received approximately 81 percent of the precipitation that would be typical for the water year, which began on October 1.

"Despite the recent rain, streamflows in the region are still well below normal. Groundwater has continued to decline. Of the five groundwater monitoring wells in Northern Virginia, four have water levels below the 10th percentile and the well in Prince William is at its lowest level recorded since 2002.

"We will need sustained, above average precipitation over the coming weeks and



VIRGINIA DEQ

This map shows the current drought advisories as established by the Drought Monitoring Task Force.



This stream in Great Falls National Park in Fairfax County was dry on Sunday morning, Aug. 1.

months for groundwater in the region to recharge."

As for drinking water supplies, "Fairfax Water continues to have adequate supply to meet current customer demand, and our systems are operating normally," emailed Susan Miller, Manager of Public Affairs. "We encourage customers to continue practicing wise water use, but overall water availability remains stable." Around 2.2 million people

in Northern Virginia depend on Fairfax Water for their drinking water.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor's July 21 reading, Alexandria is in moderate drought, the second mildest of five categories.

Virginia American Water, which supplies water to Alexandria, asks residential customers to voluntarily reduce nonessential water use.

Toilets Can Save Water

"Design improvements have allowed toilets to use 1.28 gallons per flush or less while still providing equal or superior performance. Toilets are by far the main source of water use in the home, accounting for nearly 30 percent of an average home's indoor water consumption. Older, inefficient toilets that use as much as six gallons per flush also happen to be a major source of wasted water in many homes."

— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

More Calls for Conservation

Governor Abigail Spanberger asks Virginians to voluntarily conserve water use. On June 18, she said, "a significant lack of precipitation has resulted in Virginia recording its driest period since 1941. Precipitation totals are approximately eight inches below average across much of the Commonwealth."

If drought conditions continue, the Governor can declare a drought emergency and by executive order implement mandatory water use restrictions for certain users and industries.

Tips for Conserving Water

The following suggestions for saving water are from multiple sources, including Fairfax Water.

- ❖ Reduce or stop lawn and garden watering.
- ❖ Only water between dusk and dawn to reduce evaporation.
- ❖ Plant drought-tolerant plants and reduce grass.
- ❖ Use mulch and leave the leaves.
- ❖ Turn off ornamental fountains.
- ❖ Limit filling of swimming pools.
- ❖ Do not hose sidewalks and driveways.
- ❖ Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- ❖ Reduce shower length.
- ❖ Turn off water while brushing teeth.
- ❖ Wash full loads of dishes and clothes.
- ❖ Keep a container of water in the refrigerator to avoid running water for a drink. Use one glass throughout a day.
- ❖ Do not run water to thaw food.
- ❖ Use a bowl of water to clean and prepare vegetables, instead of letting the faucet run.
- ❖ Compost instead of using a garbage disposal.
- ❖ Fix leaks.

Information

Virginia DEQ, <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/water/water-quantity/drought>

U.S. Drought Monitor, <https://drought-monitor.unl.edu/>

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, drought information: www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/water-resources/drinking-water-and-drought-monitoring/current-drought-conditions/

ENTERTAINMENT

MEETS EVERY SUNDAY

Bird Walks. 8 a.m. At 6401 George Washington Memorial Parkway, Alexandria. Friends of Dyke Marsh organizers lead bird walks every Sunday morning. Meet at 8 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Belle Haven picnic area. Walks are led by experienced birders and everyone is welcome to join.

MEETS EVERY MONDAY

Monday Morning Bird Walk. 7 a.m. Meets at 3701 Lockheed Boulevard

Alexandria. The Monday Morning Bird Walk is sponsored by the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and takes place every Monday at 7 a.m. April-September and 8 a.m. October-March. Following the walk, members of the group gather at the nearby Denny's for breakfast and to compile the morning's bird list. Call (703) 768-2525.

Wednesday Nights

Wednesday Night Bingo. 7 p.m. At Atlas Brew Works, 2429 Mandeville Lane, Alexandria. The Capital City Showcase, the company that brings you some of the DC area's best events, is hosting an amazing night of everyone's favorite game at Atlas Brew Works Alexandria. Win prizes on every round, and the winner of the final round gets a \$50 Atlas Brew Works gift card for your next visit! There's also \$6 select Atlas drafts! Plus pizza served from the world famous Andy's Pizza! Email at capitalcityshowcase@gmail.com

MGNV PLANT CLINICS ARE OPEN

The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St., Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7 - 9:30 a.m. Del Ray Farmers Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 - 11 a.m. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N. 14th and N. Courthouse Roads, Arlington operates on Saturdays from 8 - 11 a.m. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9 - 11 a.m.

YEAR ROUND ON SUNDAYS

Farmer's Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Casa Chirilagua Community Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Experience fresh foods, native plants, artisan crafts, music and community at Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market in the heart of Arlandria outside the Casa Chirilagua Community Center, every Sunday 9-1 p.m.

NOW THRU SEPT. 13

Rebecca J. White Birth of a Torii. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. The "Birth of a Torii" series re-imagines the origin of a torii, a traditional Japanese gate to a sacred space or shrine. In Rebecca's work, torii's are placed as a mark of reverence or divine protection.

NOW THRU SEPT. 17

Summer Concerts at Carlyle Crossing. 6-8 p.m. At Carlyle Crossing, 2455 Mandeville Lane, Alexandria. Beginning June 11 and continuing through Sept. 17, the free outdoor series will bring an eclectic lineup of local and regional musicians to the plaza on select Thursday evenings, creating a lively gathering place for residents, visitors, and the surrounding community.

Concert dates:

August 6 – Eric Scott (Modern Soul, Funk & Groove)
August 20 – Seneca Creek (Bluegrass)
September 3 – Femi and the Foundation (Funk, Rock, Hip-Hop, R&B)
September 17 – Sol Roots (Funk, Blues, Soul & Rock)

NOW THRU SEPT. 30

Spiritual Expressions: Differences and Similarities Exhibit. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church Art Alcove, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Digital photographic images by Jeanne Tift. Contact: Nina Tisara, ninat@ninatistara.com, 703-625-8313.



The Port to Port Beer Festival takes place Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026 at Port City Brewing Company in Alexandria.

AUG. 7-29

The ChronoScape: Artistic Explorations of Time Travel. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Art exhibit explores humanity's enduring fascination with time travel. Join us for an experience that challenges and celebrates the infinite paths of time from ancient worlds to speculative futures. Opening Reception: Friday, August 7, 2026 from 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibit.

FRIDAY/AUG. 7

Øra nØir Presents: Kapwa. 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. An Evening of Live Saxophone Quartet. Join Øra nØir for Kapwa, a program exploring connection, memory, community, and shared humanity through the expressive sound of the saxophone quartet. Taking its title from Tyree Nesbitt's "Kapwa", a work inspired by the Filipino concept of "shared self," the program brings together music by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, George Walker, Jeff Scott, and Tyree Nesbitt. Through moments of lyricism, reflection, and celebration, Kapwa invites audiences into a musical experience centered on storytelling and mutual care.

SATURDAY/AUG. 8

Port to Port Beer Festival. 12-4 p.m. At Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria. Twenty featured breweries include Perennial Artisan Ales and Great Lakes all the way from St. Louis, MO and Cleveland, OH, respectively, alongside DMV favorites like The Veil and Pen Druid. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com

SATURDAY/AUG. 8

The Music of Words. Featuring The Band Experiment. 6-8 p.m. At the Athenaeum,

Alexandria. KaNikki Jakarta presents The Music of Words featuring The Band Experiment. Join in a night of soulful music and fulfilling poetry. Arrive when the doors open to enjoy complimentary appetizers and beverages. Witness what transpires when poetry and music collide!

AUG. 14-23

Alexandria Restaurant Week. For 10 days and two weekends, restaurants across Alexandria will offer prix fixe dinner menus you won't find any other time of year. <https://visitalexandria.com/restaurants/restaurant-week>

SEPT. 4-26

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Voices Through Visuals Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave, Alexandria. This exhibit honors Hispanic culture, and its rich traditions, resilience, and artistic contributions through a range of media and perspectives, and explores themes like heritage, migration, family, cultural pride, and transformation. Opening Reception: Friday, September 4 from 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

First Saturday Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Open every day, various hours. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional> for information on other days and times for

the library's ongoing book sale.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 23

The Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce's 29th Annual Chamber Golf Classic. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. For almost thirty years, this popular event has provided more than \$365,000 in scholarships for local high school students to study business, preparing the next generation of business and community leaders.

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

AUGUST

Wed. 5: Three Dog Night \$95.00 (Rescheduled from 7/2. All 7/2 tix honored)
Thu. 6: Dave Hollister \$69.50
Fri. 7: Take Me Home: A Tribute to the Music of John Denver starring Jim Curry \$35.00
Sat. 8: 1964: The Tribute \$45.00
Sun. 9: An Evening with Hot Tuna - Acoustic \$79.50
Thu. 13: Sara Evans w/ Braden Hull \$69.50
Fri. 14: Who's Bad: The World's Greatest Michael Jackson Experience \$39.50
Sat. 15: Matthew Whitaker \$45.00
Thu. 20: An Evening with NRBQ & The Whole Wheat Horns \$39.50
Fri. 21: Robert Earl Keen w/ Race Ricketts \$69.50
Sat. 22: Robert Earl Keen w/ Race Ricketts \$69.50
Sun. 23: Robert Earl Keen w/ Race Ricketts \$69.50
Tue. 25: Robert Glasper \$79.50
Fri. 28: Raheem DeV Vaughn \$85.00

Revisiting the Revolutionary War



The National Museum of the U.S. Army honors over 30 million people who have served since the Revolutionary War.



Statues of Anna Maria and John Lane, a married couple who served in the Revolutionary War. Few women did.

The National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir offers exhibits that delve into the Revolutionary War.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
GAZETTE PACKET

As America celebrates the signing of the Declaration of Independence, amid the celebratory fireworks, hype and elation, we all need to remember that it was the start of a war, the colonists' revolution for a new nation, fought largely on American soil which finally ended eight years later in 1783 with the Treaty of Paris. Lives were disrupted and lives were lost.

The National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir offers three exhibits that delve into the Revolutionary War, its soldiers and leaders, how it was waged and what it was all about.

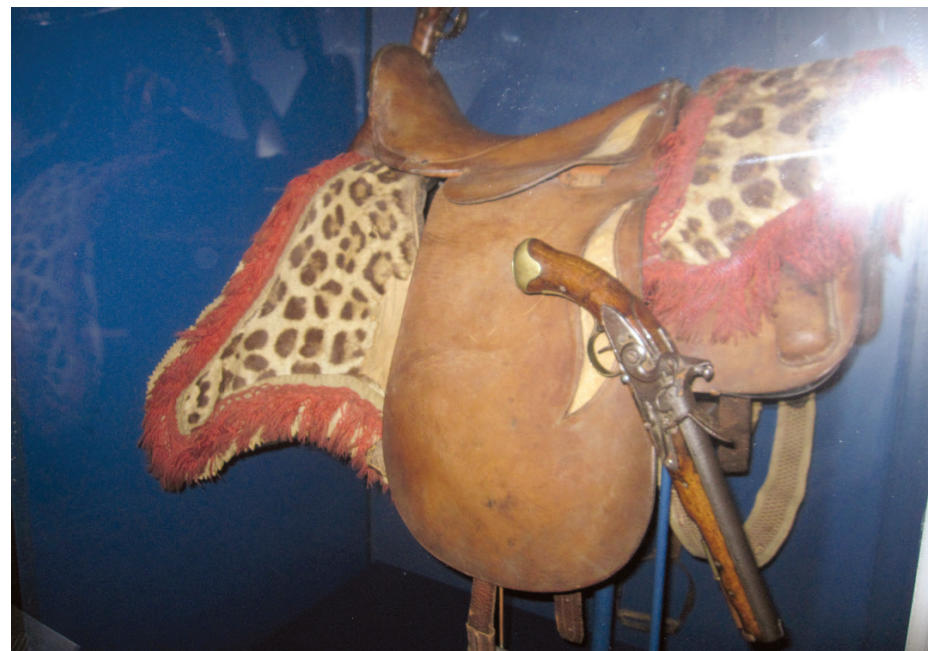
High Tech Immersion

The museum's newest exhibit, called "American Revolution: The Augmented Exhibition," seeks to put museum-goers into scenes between 1765 and 1789 using individual portable tablets called HistoPads that immerse you into 360-degree recreations of key historic moments. The tablets can make visitors feel like they are on the scene and can span centuries, comparing 18th century places to the same sites today.

By operating the HistoPad's touchscreen, which promoters call "experiential learn-



William Seymour served in the Delaware Regiment and wrote that many soldiers went barefoot and suffered "with the greatest patience imaginable."



Major James Drake's saddle has a pistol holder, silk fringe and is partly made of leopard skin.

ing," visitors take a visual and audio journey through 20 defining events of the war, from the Boston tea party to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia where figures like Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin "come alive." They actually talk.

In the "Noble Train of Artillery," some may be inspired to "help" the soldiers of 1775 who hauled 59 cannons 300 miles from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston. You may be tempted to cheer as you "stand on the street" in New York in 1776 as patriots topple the statue of the oppressor, Britain's King George III. Visitors can shiver with the troops at the frigid

SEE REVISITING, PAGE 15

One of the immersive scenes using the HistoPad is of colonists pulling down the statue of Britain's King George III.



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Virginia Treasury Announces a New Record for Unclaimed Property Funds Reunited to Rightful Owners!



**Over \$150 million successfully
reunited to citizens in FY2026!**

Have you lost track of any dormant accounts or checks? To locate and claim your unclaimed funds, visit our free search site today at:



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Click and Claim



WHAT
BROKE



WHAT
THEY CLAIMED



Their lies come out of your wallet. Insurance fraud costs everyone in Virginia \$1,000 per year. Learn how to spot it and report it at TheCostOfFraud.com.



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Obituary

Obituary

Thomas Pullen August 29, 1943 - June 20, 2026



Thomas L. Pullen, 82, of Gladstone, Illinois, died peacefully on Saturday, June 20, 2026 in Stronghurst, Illinois. Judge Pullen had a noteworthy law career that led him in 1982 to the then Immigration and Naturalization Service where he was appointed as an immigration judge in Chicago. In 1990, he was promoted to the position of Assistant Chief Immigration Judge with supervisory responsibility for the ten immigration courts in the northeast United States. Judge Pullen was selected to become Deputy Chief Immigration Judge in 1997, serving in that position until his retirement.

Judge Pullen was preceded in death by his parents and his life partner of 39 years, Peter Ferenczy.

Family and friends will begin gathering at 11:30am Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at the Oquawka Cemetery, Oquawka, Illinois. Graveside services with military honors will follow at 12:00pm CT. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Mellinger Foundation, 1025 East Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462 in memory of Judge Pullen.

To view the full obituary and leave condolences, please visit Watson-Thomas Funeral Home's website at <https://www.watsonthomas.com/obituaries/thomas-pullen>

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PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH/THE GAZETTE

Visitors can use a touchscreen device to activate voices and sounds in the augmented reality exhibit.

Revisiting the Revolutionary War

FROM PAGE 13

1777 winter encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. In the "Creation of a Nation" segment, museum-goers are a fly on the wall inside Independence Hall in the room where the Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia.

Histoverly, the French company that made the exhibit, "combines world class scholarship and the best in immersive and 3D technologies to create unforgettable, interactive cultural experiences," promotional materials say.

Call to Arms

A less drowning-the-senses experience is "Call to Arms, the Soldier and the Revolutionary War," honoring the Army's founding in 1775, on display through June 2027. "The Army's history is America's history," a panel notes.

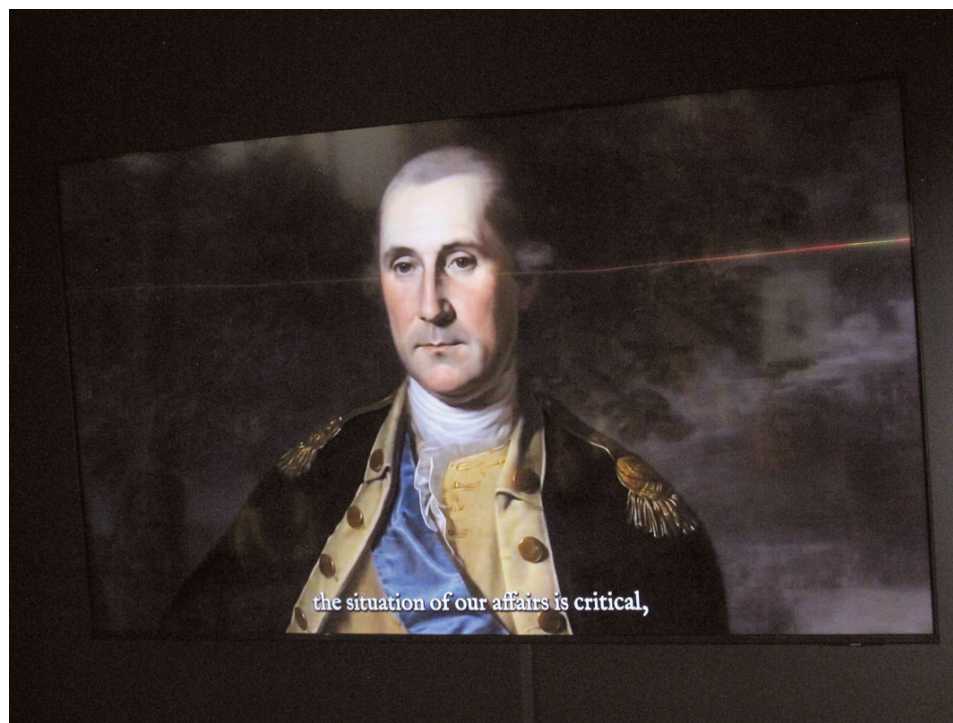
The 5,000-square-foot exhibit has 287 artifacts from the original colonies, England, France and Canada, including weapons, uniforms and tools. General George Washington's silver mounted holster pistols, wooden canteens and weapons like the blunderbuss are among the items displayed.

Especially intriguing are the powder horns for storing weapons' black powder; hence the saying, "Keep your powder dry." Many have delicately hand-carved, individualized designs.

Seven cast figures offer the personal perspectives of real people in the war, including Daniel Nimham, the last chief of the Wapinger People, who fought with the patriots in Massachusetts; Sylvanus Wood, who captured the first British prisoner at Concord, Massachusetts; and Anna Maria Lane, who fought alongside her husband, John.

The Traditional Way

For museum visitors who prefer a more traditional stop-study-and-read browsing



In the augmented reality exhibit, George Washington "speaks."



Revolutionary War soldiers carved their powder horns with intricate personalized designs.

experience, check out the quiet corner of the Fight for the Nation Galleries and con-

template how before the nation had an army, local militias were the colonies' defense. Washington and his officers had to corral and train a ragtag hodgepodge of amateur militias from the 13 colonies. Over time through several wars, the Army evolved to what it is today.

One panel quotes General Colin Powell in 2007: "The American soldier, whether it's from the Revolutionary War period, Vietnam, World War II or the young men and women who are serving now ... they have never failed to answer the call."

The museum is free and open seven days a week. Golf carts from the parking lot and wheelchairs are available.

Information
www.theNMUSA.org

"Two Over-70s, Please?"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That's all I had to say - or do, to buy the discounted-for-seniors' tickets at a horse show in Pa. my wife Dina and I recently attended: \$10 per person instead of the \$25-per-person regular price, a 60-percent savings. I was so happy and surprised at such a healthy discount given so readily that it wasn't until the Monday after this Friday event that it hit me. The ticket-sellers never even asked Dina or I for a "valid" driver's license to confirm our eligibility for the discount. It was like an inverted version of having to show one's driver's license to prove you're over 21 - when you're way over aged 21 - and thus be allowed to purchase alcohol. I always joke that if anybody "cards" me thinking I'm not over aged 21, than I sure must look like hell for someone who isn't. Referring back to this "over-70" ticket price; if my age was not questioned then I must be a convincing age 70, appearance wise - which I don't think I am any more than I thought I could possibly look to be under aged 21 at the liquor store. Was my horse-show age taken for granted? How disappointing. And to tell you the truth, a bit of a surprise which is possibly the reason behind my motivation in addressing this subject. Previously, at the liquor store, I wasn't the least bit flattered by the clerk's request. I thought it was ridiculous. In each case though, age/appearance mattered. At the liquor store, apparently; I didn't look old enough while at the horse show, apparently, I did look old enough.

Trying to consider an alternate reason - from the establishment's perspective, given that horse shows might attract an older clientele: good public relations. Would it be well-received if the over-70s are having to show proof of age to buy a ticket rather than it just be presumed? I can just see it now: an elderly (obviously over aged 70) man comes "crutching" up to the ticket booth and after requesting his over-70 ticket/ rate, is asked to show his driver's license to prove his age. He then manages to balance himself/ almost falls as he reaches around to a back pocket to grab his wallet and then pick through the wallet with his fingers to find and then extract his driver's license. Or the elderly woman in a wheelchair who rolls up to purchase her over-70 ticket and is likewise asked for her proof of age. She then reaches around uncomfortably to the back of her wheelchair and grabs for her purse. She then brings it upfront, opens it and finds her driver's license and hands it over thinking this request was unnecessary at best and humiliating at worst. (What? The show is expecting a bunch of over 65s-under-70s trying to buy a discounted ticket for which they're not age-eligible? I don't think so. Unlike the under-21s trying to buy alcohol, the non-over-70s who manage to buy the over-70s discounted tickets are unlikely to be stopped on the fairgrounds for being impaired.)

Irrespective of the show's actual policy or my imaginary take, I'm writing about this because this is the first time where my current way-over-aged 21 was an issue of sorts but not one that required proof of age. Usually, I've been asked for proof. Actually, it was the speed of my ticket purchase. Not for a moment was my age-specific request doubted. Either it's the show's policy to treat seniors respectfully or I'm a convincing-looking over 70 (I mean I am nearly aged 72 so I could look the part?)

Having thought about this experience a bit more since then, this 'over-70' ticket purchase has made me think (and as my late brother would say; invoking Moe of The Three Stooges; "Every time you think you weaken the nation." Perhaps I should let it go? I'm more concerned/ agitated by all the drivers who insist on backing into parking spaces anyway. There's no discount for doing so. I don't get any it more than I get how anybody - could possibly think I'm not over age 21. As far as being over aged 70; apparently, I'm not getting any younger so I might as well learn to live with it.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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OPEN SUN 8/9, 3-5 PM



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\$1,875,000 | Circa 1875, this 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath semi-detached townhouse offers two fireplaces, Miele kitchen, first-floor family room, and rooftop deck. One off-street parking space.

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OldTownAlexandriaLiving.com

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SherylHomeSales.com

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WendySantantonio.com



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